

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claim 13, 14 are cancelled. Claims 1, 6-10, and 12 are pending and under consideration.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 6-10, and 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Epixtech website, 8/24/2000

<http://web.archive.org/web/20000229101319/http://epixtech.com/> (hereinafter "Epixtech") in view of "How the virtual library transforms interlibrary loans- the OhioLINK experience" by David F. Kohl, Interlending & Document Supply, Bradford 1998, Vol. 26, Iss. 2 (hereinafter "Kohl") and "The Washington Research Library Consortium: A real organization for a virtual library" by Lizanne Payne, Information Technology and Libraries, Chicago, Mar. 1998, Vol. 17, Iss. 1 (hereinafter "Payne").

On page 5, the outstanding Office Action concedes that Epixtech fails to disclose "collation information receiving means for generating collation information when a book ordered by the ordering means has been previously ordered by another individual library, said collation information including information identifying each individual library that has ordered the book" and "collation information transmitting means for transmitting the collation information generated by the collation information receiving means to the wholesaler" as recited in claim 1. The Office Action then relies on Kohl to provide the missing teachings. The broad citations of Kohl (pgs. 1-5, particularly 3-4) do not compensate for the absence of teachings or suggestions that would render obvious the above-identified features. Kohl describes issues related to interlibrary lending in a consortium of libraries of Ohio-based colleges and universities. However, Kohl does not include any discussion related to collation information which is transmitted to a wholesaler.

Further, the Office Action concedes that Epixtech fails to disclose "loan reserving means for registering a book in said book stock information management means as a loan reserved book when a request for loan reserving is entered, [...] as a loan reserved and unavailable book when the requested book is not yet delivered" as recited in claim 1 (see Page 5 of the outstanding Office Action). However, the Office Action then relies on Payne to teach the missing features (see page 6 of the outstanding Office Action). Payne discloses informing a user about the status of materials at each member library by providing an online catalog. However, Payne does not teach or suggest that a book is registered as a loan reserved and unavailable book when the requested book is not yet delivered.

Since the cited prior art references fail to render obvious all the features of independent claim 1, claim 1 and claims 6-10 depending directly or indirectly from claim 1 are patentable.

Independent claim 12 patentably distinguishes over the cited prior art at least by reciting:

- generating collation information when an ordered book has been previously ordered by another individual library, said collation information including information identifying each individual library that has ordered the book;
- transmitting the collation information to the wholesaler; and
- a book is registered in said book stock information management means as a loan reserved and unavailable book when the requested book is not yet delivered.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: Nov. 13, 2007

By: L. Todor
Luminita A. Todor
Registration No. 57,639

1201 New York Avenue, N.W., 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501